

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02045 231507Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 231425Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0663

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T JIDDA 2045

EXDIS

SECDEF FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, SA

SUBJECT: SAG MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YAR

REF: A. SANAA 0662

B. JIDDA 1573

C. JIDDA 1360

D. SECDEF 142332Z FEB 75

E. STATE 64367

1. WE UNDERSTAND SANAA'S DESIRE TO SEE ACTION ON AID TO YAR MILITARY. FORWARD MOVEMENT ON YAR MODERNIZATION BASICALLY DEPENDS ON SAG READINESS TO TALK AND WILLINGNESS TO PAY. AMBASSADOR REMINDED MINDEF SULTAN ON MARCH 4 (REF B), SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTICALLY, THAT WE WOULD BE READY TO DISCUSS YAR PROGRAM WHEN SAUDIS ARE READY. SULTAN ASKED IF WE HAD ANY PROPOSALS; AMBASSADOR SAID WE DID NOT AS YET. (OTHER SOURCES INDICATED THAT SAG SURVEY REPORT WAS NOT YET COMPLETE.)

2. ADDITIONAL PRESSING ON SAG WOULD PROBABLY LEAD SULTAN TO CONCLUDE THAT IF USG IS SO ANXIOUS THAT PROGRAM MOVE AHEAD, HE WOULD DO WELL TO RENEW HIS OLD THEME THAT USG SHOULD PAY FOR PART OF PACKAGE. FROM OUTSET OUR POSITION
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HAS BEEN THAT USG WILL SUPPORT SAG MILITARY AID TO YAR

BY SELLING REASONABLE AMOUNTS AND TYPES OF EQUIPMENT
WHICH SAG WISHES TO PROVIDE, BUT THAT PROGRAM DEPENDS
ON SAG INITIATIVE SINCE SAG WILL BE PAYING THE BILLS.

3. HAVING STATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS MATTER ONLY
18 DAYS AGO TO MINDEF SULTAN, WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE ARE
IN A POSITION TO MAKE ANOTHER APPROACH AT THIS TIME.
INDEED, WE ARE MOST RELUCTANT TO ENTER INTO ANY DISCUSSION
WITHOUT KNOWING IN MORE DETAIL WHAT USG POSITION IS ON
MATTER. (HOW HAS WASHINGTON REVIEW AFFECTED LAST NOVEMBER'S
FIFER CONCLUSIONS, FOR INSTANCE?) THUS, AT THIS POINT
EMBASSY BELIEVES FURTHER INITIATIVES ON OUR PART MUST AWAIT
ARRIVAL OF REPORT ON FIFER SURVEY.
AKINS

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NNN

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